

Appl. No. 09/681,065  
Amdt. dated April 18, 2003  
Reply to Office action of December 18, 2002

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

C1  
Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for identifying a characteristic of a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:  
selecting a bulk flowable material having a determined property;  
causing said bulk flowable material to flow; and  
storing information related to the bulk flowable material on a property identification marker, said storing step being performed concurrent with said step of causing the bulk flowable material to flow; and  
periodically dispensing a property identification marker into said bulk flowable material.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product.

Claim 3 (previously amended): The method according to claim 2, wherein said agricultural product comprises an unharvested agricultural product.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein said agricultural product comprises a harvested agricultural crop.

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Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said harvested agricultural crop is located in a transport container.

Claim 6 (original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said harvested agricultural crop is located in a crop harvesting apparatus.

14  
Claim 7 (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker contains information identifying a grower of said bulk flowable material.

15  
Claim 8 (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker contains information identifying an owner of said bulk flowable material.

16  
Claim 9 (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating geographic origin of said bulk flowable material.

17  
Claim 10 (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating a genetic property of said bulk flowable material.

18  
Claim 11 (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating a historical record of said bulk flowable material.

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*Cl. Cont.*  
 Claim <sup>2</sup>~~12~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 2, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating a crop variety designation related to said agricultural product.

Claim <sup>9</sup>~~13~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 2, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating a specific trait associated with said agricultural product.

Claim <sup>10</sup>~~14~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 2, wherein said property identification marker contains information useful for indicating whether said agricultural product is a genetically modified organism.

Claim <sup>11</sup>~~15~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 2, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating said agricultural product's genetic content.

Claim <sup>19</sup>~~16~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises an optically readable marker.

Claim <sup>20</sup>~~17~~ (original): The method according to claim <sup>19</sup>~~16~~, wherein said optically readable marker comprises a machine-readable marker.

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21  
Claim 18 (original): The method according to claim 16, wherein said optically readable marker comprises coded information.

Cl. Cont. 22  
Claim 19 (original): The method according to claim 16, wherein said optically readable marker comprises human readable information.

23  
Claim 20 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises a radiant energy marker.

24  
Claim 21 (previously amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein said radiant energy marker comprises a radio frequency identification tag.

26  
Claim 22 (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising a marker preparation step wherein identifying information is stored on said property identification marker, said marker preparation step being performed prior to said step of causing said bulk flowable material to flow.

Claim 23 (canceled)

27  
Claim 24 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, further comprising a marker preparation step wherein identifying information is stored on said property identification marker, said marker preparation step being wherein said storing step is also performed after said step of periodically dispensing.

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*28*  
Claim ~~27~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises information indicating a plurality of properties of said bulk flowable material.

*29*  
Claim ~~28~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises a color-coded marker.

*30*  
Claim ~~29~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises a preprinted label.

*25* *23*  
Claim ~~28~~ (original): The method according to claim ~~28~~, wherein said radiant energy marker contains identifying information stored prior to said step of causing said bulk flowable material to flow.

*31*  
Claim ~~29~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of periodically dispensing is performed at pre-determined time intervals.

*32*  
Claim ~~30~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of periodically dispensing is performed at pre-determined volume-related intervals.

*33*  
Claim ~~31~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises a substance deposited onto said bulk flowable material.

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34  
Claim ~~32~~<sup>33</sup> (original): The method according to claim ~~31~~<sup>33</sup>, wherein said substance comprises a colored vegetable-based dye.

C1  
cont.  
35  
Claim ~~33~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises a paper label.

36  
Claim ~~34~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises a biodegradable label.

37  
Claim ~~35~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker consists of a biodegradable ink.

38  
Claim ~~36~~<sup>37</sup> (previously amended): The method according to claim ~~35~~<sup>37</sup>, wherein said biodegradable ink consists of a soy-based ink.

39  
Claim ~~37~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of removing said property identification marker from said bulk flowable material.

40  
Claim ~~38~~<sup>39</sup> (original): The method according to claim ~~37~~<sup>39</sup>, wherein said removing step comprises a filtering step.

41  
Claim ~~39~~<sup>39</sup> (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~37~~<sup>39</sup>, wherein said removing step comprises ~~comprising~~ an air flow generating step.

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<sup>42</sup>  
Claim ~~40~~ (original): The method according to claim <sup>39</sup>~~31~~, wherein said removing step comprises a gravity separation step.

*Cont.*  
<sup>43</sup>  
Claim ~~41~~ (original): The method according to claim <sup>39</sup>~~37~~, wherein said removing step comprises a magnetic separating step.

<sup>44</sup>  
Claim ~~42~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising a marker reading step.

<sup>45</sup>  
Claim ~~43~~ (original): The method according to claim <sup>44</sup>~~42~~, further comprising a routing step wherein said bulk flowable material is routed to a location based on data obtained in said reading step.

<sup>52</sup>  
Claim ~~44~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said periodically dispensing step is performed by a marker dispenser located in a bulk flowable material collection device.

<sup>53</sup>  
Claim ~~45~~ (currently amended): The method according to claim <sup>52</sup>~~44~~, wherein said bulk flowable material ~~collector~~ collection device comprises a crop harvester.

<sup>54</sup>  
Claim ~~46~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating a prior chemical treatment of said bulk flowable material.

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<sup>55</sup>  
Claim ~~47~~ (original): The method according to claim <sup>54</sup>~~46~~, wherein said prior chemical treatment comprises an insecticide application.

*Cl. Cont.* <sup>56</sup>  
Claim ~~48~~ (original): The method according to claim <sup>54</sup>~~46~~, wherein said prior chemical treatment comprises a herbicide treatment.

<sup>57</sup>  
Claim ~~49~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating future handling regarding said bulk flowable material.

<sup>58</sup>  
Claim ~~50~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker contains information indicating prior testing of said bulk flowable material.

<sup>59</sup>  
Claim ~~51~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of recording positioning information associated with said bulk flowable material.

<sup>60</sup> <sup>59</sup>  
Claim ~~52~~ (original): The method according to claim ~~51~~, wherein said recording step includes the step of receiving a positioning system signal related to said bulk flowable material.

<sup>7</sup>  
Claim ~~53~~ (original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said harvested agricultural crop is located in a storage container.

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<sup>61</sup>  
Claim ~~54~~ (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises a shape-coded marker.

<sup>62</sup>  
Claim ~~55~~ (previously amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises an edible marker.

Claims ~~56-62~~ (withdrawn)

<sup>Sub D</sup> Claim 63 (currently amended): A material identification system, comprising:  
a plurality of property identification markers; and  
an automated marker dispenser capable of periodically dispensing said plurality of property identification markers into a flowing bulk flowable material;  
wherein said plurality of property identification markers carry information identifying a physical characteristic of a bulk flowable material in which said property identification marker is placed.

<sup>76</sup>  
Claim ~~64~~ (currently amended): The ~~apparatus~~ material identification system according to claim 63, wherein said plurality of property identification markers identifies a bulk flowable material as containing a genetically modified organism.

<sup>12</sup>  
Claim ~~65~~ (previously added): The method of claim 2, wherein said property identification marker contains information identifying a soil amendment application performed to soil used to grow said agricultural product.

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<sup>13</sup>  
Claim ~~60~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>12</sup>~~60~~, wherein said soil amendment application comprises a fertilizer application.

<sup>63</sup>  
Claim ~~61~~ (previously added): The method of claim 1, wherein said property identification marker is made of biodegradable material.

<sup>64</sup>  
Claim ~~62~~ (previously added): The method of claim 1, wherein said property identification marker is physically attached to a portion of said bulk flowable material.

<sup>65</sup>  
Claim ~~63~~ (previously added): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sensing the volume of the flowing bulk flowable material, and wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to achieve a given property identification marker to volume ratio.

<sup>66</sup>  
Claim ~~70~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>65</sup>~~69~~, further comprising the steps of:  
reading a dispensed property identification marker; and  
using data obtained via the reading step to calculate statistical information related to the bulk flowable material.

<sup>67</sup>  
Claim ~~71~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>65</sup>~~69~~, further comprising the steps of:  
reading a dispensed property identification marker; and  
using data obtained via the reading step to calculate the bulk flowable material's volume.

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*68*  
Claim *72* (previously added): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sensing the mass of the flowing bulk flowable material, and wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to achieve a given property identification marker to mass ratio.

*69*  
Claim *73* (previously added): The method of claim *72*, further comprising the steps of:  
reading a dispensed property identification marker; and  
using data obtained via the reading step to calculate statistical information related to the bulk flowable material.

*70*  
Claim *74* (previously added): The method of claim *72*, further comprising the steps of:  
reading a dispensed property identification marker; and  
using data obtained via the reading step to calculate the bulk flowable material's mass.

*71*  
Claim *75* (previously added): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sensing the weight of the flowing bulk flowable material, and wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to achieve a given property identification marker to weight ratio.

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*72*  
Claim ~~76~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~75~~, further comprising the steps of:  
reading a dispensed property identification marker; and  
using data obtained via the reading step to calculate statistical information related to the  
bulk flowable material.

*71*  
Claim ~~77~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~76~~, further comprising the steps of:  
reading a dispensed property identification marker; and  
using data obtained via the reading step to calculate the bulk flowable material's weight.

*46*  
Claim ~~78~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~42~~, wherein said reading step is performed  
automatically.

*47*  
Claim ~~79~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~78~~, further comprising the step of routing the  
bulk flowable material based on a determined property of the bulk flowable material.

*48*  
Claim ~~80~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~79~~, wherein said routing step comprises the  
step of automatically routing the bulk flowable material in response to data gathered via said  
automatic reading step.

*49*  
Claim ~~81~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~80~~, wherein said step of automatically  
routing further comprises the step of automatically directing bulk flowable material sharing a  
given determined property to a designated storage location.

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*50*  
Claim ~~82~~ (previously amended): The method of claim ~~81~~ *49*, wherein said step of automatically routing directs genetically modified bulk flowable material to a storage location collecting genetically modified bulk flowable material so as to segregate said genetically modified bulk flowable material from bulk flowable material that has not been genetically modified.

*51*  
Claim ~~83~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~80~~ *50*, wherein said step of automatically routing further comprises the step of automatically directing bulk flowable material sharing a given determined property to a designated treatment location.

*74*  
Claim ~~84~~ (previously added): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of routing the bulk flowable material based on a determined property of the bulk flowable material.

*77*  
Claim ~~85~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~ *75*, wherein said plurality of property identification markers identifies a bulk flowable material as containing an organism that has not been genetically modified.

*78*  
Claim ~~86~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~ *75*, wherein said plurality of property identification markers comprises a plurality of labels.

*79*  
Claim ~~87~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~ *75*, further comprising a preprinted continuous label spool which is subdivided to create said plurality of property identification markers.

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*80* *79*  
Claim ~~80~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~87~~, wherein said preprinted continuous label spool comprises a continuous barcode printed thereon.

*Cl. Cont.* *81* *75*  
Claim ~~89~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~67~~, wherein said plurality of property identification markers comprises a plurality of optically readable markers.

*83* *81*  
Claim ~~90~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~88~~, wherein said plurality of optically readable markers comprises a plurality of machine-readable markers.

*84* *81*  
Claim ~~91~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~89~~, wherein said plurality of optically readable markers contain coded information.

*82* *81*  
Claim ~~92~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~89~~, wherein said plurality of optically readable markers comprises a human readable portion.

*85* *75*  
Claim ~~93~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~, wherein said plurality of property identification markers comprises a plurality of radiant energy markers.

*86* *85*  
Claim ~~94~~ (previously amended): The material identification system according to claim ~~93~~, wherein said plurality of radiant energy markers comprises a plurality of radio frequency identification tags.

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<sup>87</sup>  
Claim ~~95~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein each property identification marker of said plurality of property identification markers contains information identifying a plurality of characteristics of a bulk flowable material.

<sup>88</sup>  
Claim ~~96~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers is biodegradable.

<sup>89</sup>  
Claim ~~97~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers is consumable.

<sup>90</sup>  
Claim ~~98~~ (previously amended): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers consists of a plurality of ink doses.

<sup>91</sup>  
Claim ~~99~~ (previously amended): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers consists of a plurality of biodegradable ink doses.

<sup>92</sup>  
Claim ~~100~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers comprises a plurality of soy-based ink doses.

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<sup>93</sup>  
Claim ~~101~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers comprises a plurality of colored marker doses.

<sup>94</sup>  
Claim ~~102~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers comprises a plurality of colored, vegetable-based dye doses.

<sup>95</sup>  
Claim ~~103~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers contains information identifying a soil amendment application performed to soil used to grow an agriculturally generated bulk flowable material.

<sup>96</sup>  
Claim ~~104~~ (previously added): The material identification system of claim ~~103~~<sup>95</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers contains information identifying a fertilizer application as the soil amendment application.

<sup>97</sup>  
Claim ~~105~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, wherein said plurality of property identification markers contains information identifying a pesticide application administered to an agriculturally generated bulk flowable material.

<sup>98</sup>  
Claim ~~106~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, further comprising a bulk flowable material conveying apparatus.



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99  
C1 Claim ~~107~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, further comprising a bulk flowable material routing apparatus.

100  
Claim ~~108~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, further comprising an automatic bulk flowable material routing apparatus.

101  
Claim ~~109~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, further comprising a property identification marker reading apparatus.

102  
Claim ~~110~~ (previously added): The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~<sup>75</sup>, further comprising an automatic property identification marker reading apparatus.

[ Claims 111-113 (canceled) ✓

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*Cl. Cont.*

<sup>103</sup>  
Claim ~~114~~ (currently amended): A method of indicating whether a bulk flowable material contains a genetically modified organism, comprising the steps of:

causing a harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

preparing a property identification marker by associating identification data with the property identification marker, said preparing step being performed concurrent with said causing step; and

dispensing a plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers into the flowing bulk flowable material to indicate whether the harvested bulk flowable material contains a genetically modified organism.

<sup>104</sup>  
Claim ~~115~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>103</sup>~~114~~, further comprising the step of harvesting an unharvested bulk flowable material.

<sup>106</sup>  
Claim ~~116~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>103</sup>~~114~~, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a field containing a quantity of an unharvested bulk flowable material, at least a portion of the unharvested bulk flowable material being a genetically modified organism; and

harvesting the unharvested bulk flowable material from the selected field.

<sup>109</sup>  
Claim ~~117~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>103</sup>~~114~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are human-readable property identification markers.

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110

108

Claim ~~118~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~114~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are machine-readable property identification markers.

111

103

Claim ~~119~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~114~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are radio frequency identification markers.

105

104

Claim ~~120~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~115~~, wherein said dispensing step is performed at generally the same time as said harvesting step.

107

106

Claim ~~121~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~116~~, wherein said dispensing step is performed at a location removed from the field selected in said selecting step.

108

106

Claim ~~122~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~116~~, wherein said dispensing step is performed at the location of the field selected in said selecting step.

112

103

Claim ~~123~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~114~~, wherein the presence of the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers in the harvested bulk flowable material indicates, without the need for further testing of the harvested bulk flowable material, the presence of a genetically modified organism.

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113

103

Claim ~~124~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~114~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate an additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

114

Claim ~~125~~ (currently amended): A method of identifying a genetic characteristic of a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:

causing a harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

preparing a property identification marker by associating identification data with the property identification marker, said preparing step being performed concurrent with said causing step; and

dispensing a plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers into the flowing harvested bulk flowable material to indicate a genetic characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material that cannot be visually perceived by an unaided human eye.

115

114

Claim ~~126~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~125~~, further comprising the step of harvesting an unharvested bulk flowable material, at least a portion of the unharvested bulk flowable material having a genetic characteristic that cannot be visually perceived by an unaided human eye.

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*116*  
Claim ~~127~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~125~~, further comprising the steps of:

*114*  
selecting a field containing a quantity of an unharvested bulk flowable material, at least a portion of the unharvested bulk flowable material having a genetic characteristic that cannot be visually perceived by an unaided human eye; and

*Cont.*  
harvesting the unharvested bulk flowable material from the selected field.

*117*  
Claim ~~128~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~125~~, wherein, in said dispensing step, said plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are dispensed to indicate whether a portion of the harvested bulk flowable material comprises a genetically modified organism.

*118*  
Claim ~~129~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~125~~, wherein the presence of the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers in the harvested bulk flowable material indicates, without the need for further testing of the harvested bulk flowable material, whether the harvested bulk flowable material comprises a genetically modified organism.

*119*  
Claim ~~130~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~125~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate an additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

*120*  
Claim ~~131~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~125~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate an environmental treatment that has been performed on an area from which the harvested bulk flowable material was harvested.

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<sup>121</sup>  
Claim ~~132~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>120</sup>~~131~~, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a pesticide.

<sup>122</sup>  
Claim ~~133~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>120</sup>~~131~~, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a herbicide.

<sup>123</sup>  
Claim ~~134~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>120</sup>~~131~~, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a fertilizer.

<sup>124</sup>  
Claim ~~135~~ (currently amended): A method of associating an environmental treatment with a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:

causing a harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and  
storing information related to the harvested bulk flowable material on a readily-  
identifiable property identification marker, said storing step being performed concurrent with  
said causing step; and

dispensing a plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers into the flowing harvested bulk flowable material to indicate that a given environmental treatment has been performed on an area from which the bulk flowable material had been collected, the performance of the environmental treatment being not capable of visual detection by viewing the harvested bulk flowable material with an unaided human eye.

<sup>125</sup>  
Claim ~~136~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>124</sup>~~135~~, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a pesticide.

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126 124

Claim ~~137~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~135~~, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a herbicide.

127 124

Claim ~~138~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~135~~, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises a soil amendment.

128 127

Claim ~~139~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~138~~, wherein the soil amendment comprises an application of a fertilizer.

129 124

Claim ~~140~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~135~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate an additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

130 124

Claim ~~141~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~135~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate a genetic characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

131 124

Claim 142 (previously added): The method of claim ~~135~~, wherein the presence of the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers in the harvested bulk flowable material reduces the need for further testing of the harvested bulk flowable material to determine whether the harvested bulk flowable material has undergone an environmental treatment.

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<sup>132</sup>  
 Claim ~~143~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>124</sup>~~135~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are machine-readable property identification markers.

<sup>133</sup>  
 Claim ~~144~~ (previously added): The method of claim <sup>124</sup>~~136~~, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are radio frequency identification markers.

<sup>134</sup>  
 Claim ~~145~~ (currently amended): A method of identifying a characteristic of a bulk flowable material in a manner that will travel with the bulk flowable material and that will reduce the need for subsequent testing of the bulk flowable material for presence of the characteristic, comprising the steps of:

determining whether at least a portion of a chosen lot of a harvested bulk flowable material possesses a given characteristic;

causing the chosen lot of harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

storing information related to the chosen lot on a property identification marker, said storing step being performed concurrent with said causing step; and

periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the flowing bulk flowable material;

wherein presence of the property identification marker in the harvested bulk flowable material reduces the need for further testing of the chosen lot of harvested bulk flowable material to determine whether the given characteristic is present in the chosen lot.

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<sup>135</sup>  
Claim ~~146~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~145~~<sup>134</sup>, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a field containing a quantity of an unharvested bulk flowable material; and

harvesting the unharvested bulk flowable material from the selected field;

wherein, in said dispensing step, the property identification marker is dispensed into the flowing bulk flowable material without regard to the specific harvest point within the boundaries of the selected field from which the bulk flowable material has been harvested.

<sup>136</sup>  
Claim ~~147~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~145~~<sup>134</sup>, wherein the property identification marker comprises human-readable information.

<sup>137</sup>  
Claim ~~148~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~145~~<sup>134</sup>, wherein the property identification marker comprises machine-readable information.

<sup>138</sup>  
Claim ~~149~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~145~~<sup>134</sup>, wherein the property identification marker comprises a radio frequency identification marker.

<sup>139</sup>  
Claim ~~150~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~145~~<sup>134</sup>, wherein the determined given characteristic comprises a genetic characteristic.

<sup>140</sup>  
Claim ~~151~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~145~~<sup>134</sup>, wherein the determined given characteristic comprises an exposure of the area from which the harvested bulk flowable material was harvested to an environmental treatment, the environment treatment having been performed prior to harvesting of the harvested bulk flowable material.

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<sup>141</sup>  
Claim ~~132~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~135~~<sup>134</sup>, wherein the property identification marker also indicates an additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

C1  
cont.  
<sup>142</sup>  
Claim ~~133~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~132~~<sup>141</sup>, wherein the indicated additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material comprises ownership information related to the harvested bulk flowable material.

<sup>143</sup>  
Claim ~~134~~ (previously added): The method of claim ~~132~~<sup>141</sup>, wherein the indicated additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material comprises origin information related to the harvested bulk flowable material.

<sup>144</sup>  
Claim ~~135~~ (currently amended): A method of harvesting and identifying a characteristic of a bulk flowable material containing a genetically modified organism, comprising the steps of:

selecting a field containing a quantity of a bulk flowable material, at least a portion of the bulk flowable material being a genetically modified organism;

harvesting the bulk flowable material from the selected field;

causing the harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

storing information related to the bulk flowable material on a property identification marker, said storing step being performed concurrent with said causing step; and

dispensing, without regard to location within the selected field, a plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers into the flowing bulk flowable material to indicate that the harvested bulk flowable material contains a genetically modified organism.

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145

Claim ~~156~~ (new): A method for indicating a characteristic of a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:

CI  
 COM

selecting a bulk flowable material having a determined property;  
 causing the bulk flowable material to flow;  
 preparing a property identification marker by associating data with the property identification marker, said preparing step being performed concurrent with said causing step; and  
 periodically dispensing a prepared property identification marker into the bulk flowable material.

146

145

Claim ~~157~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information identifying a grower of the bulk flowable material.

147

145

Claim ~~158~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information identifying an owner of the bulk flowable material.

148

145

Claim ~~159~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating geographic origin of the bulk flowable material.

149

145

Claim ~~160~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a genetic property of the bulk flowable material.

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150 145  
Claim ~~151~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a historical record of the bulk flowable material.

C1  
C10.14  
151 145  
Claim ~~152~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a crop variety designation related to the agricultural product.

152 145  
Claim ~~153~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a specific trait associated with the agricultural product.

153 145  
Claim ~~154~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein the property identification marker contains information useful for indicating whether the agricultural product is a genetically modified organism.

154 145  
Claim ~~155~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating the agricultural product's genetic content.

155 145  
Claim ~~156~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker comprises information indicating a plurality of properties of the bulk flowable material.

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156 145  
Claim ~~167~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a prior chemical treatment of the bulk flowable material.

C1  
cont. 151 156  
Claim ~~168~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~167~~, wherein the prior chemical treatment comprises an insecticide application.

158 154  
Claim ~~169~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~167~~, wherein the prior chemical treatment comprises a herbicide treatment.

159 145  
Claim ~~170~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating future handling regarding the bulk flowable material.

160 145  
Claim ~~171~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating prior testing of the bulk flowable material.

161 145  
Claim ~~172~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, further comprising the step of recording positioning information associated with the bulk flowable material.

162 145  
Claim ~~173~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker comprises a radiant energy marker.

163 145  
Claim ~~174~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~156~~, wherein the property identification marker comprises an optically readable marker.

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164  
Claim ~~175~~ (new): A method for indicating a characteristic of a bulk flowable material,  
comprising the steps of:

C1. H.  
causing a bulk flowable material to flow;

periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the bulk flowable material;

and

storing information related to the bulk flowable material on a property identification  
marker, said storing step being performed after said periodically dispensing step.

165 164  
Claim ~~176~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the property identification  
marker contains information identifying a grower of the bulk flowable material.

166 164  
Claim ~~177~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the property identification  
marker contains information identifying an owner of the bulk flowable material.

167 164  
Claim ~~178~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the property identification  
marker contains information indicating geographic origin of the bulk flowable material.

168 164  
Claim ~~179~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the property identification  
marker contains information indicating a genetic property of the bulk flowable material.

169 164  
Claim ~~180~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the property identification  
marker contains information indicating a historical record of the bulk flowable material.

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*170*  
Claim ~~181~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a crop variety designation related to the agricultural product.

*C1 Cont*  
*171*  
Claim ~~182~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a specific trait associated with the agricultural product.

*172*  
Claim ~~183~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein the property identification marker contains information useful for indicating whether the agricultural product is a genetically modified organism.

*173*  
Claim ~~184~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating the agricultural product's genetic content.

*174*  
Claim ~~185~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the property identification marker comprises information indicating a plurality of properties of the bulk flowable material.

*175*  
Claim ~~186~~ (new): The method according to claim ~~175~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating a prior chemical treatment of the bulk flowable material.

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C/  
Cont.

<sup>174</sup>  
Claim ~~187~~ (new): The method according to claim <sup>175</sup>~~186~~, wherein the prior chemical treatment comprises an insecticide application.

<sup>177</sup>  
Claim ~~188~~ (new): The method according to claim <sup>175</sup>~~186~~, wherein the prior chemical treatment comprises a herbicide treatment.

<sup>178</sup>  
Claim ~~189~~ (new): The method according to claim <sup>164</sup>~~175~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating future handling regarding the bulk flowable material.

<sup>179</sup>  
Claim ~~190~~ (new): The method according to claim <sup>164</sup>~~175~~, wherein the property identification marker contains information indicating prior testing of the bulk flowable material.

<sup>180</sup>  
Claim ~~191~~ (new): The method according to claim <sup>164</sup>~~175~~, further comprising the step of recording positioning information associated with the bulk flowable material.

<sup>181</sup>  
Claim ~~192~~ (new): The method according to claim <sup>164</sup>~~175~~, wherein the property identification marker comprises a radiant energy marker.

<sup>182</sup>  
Claim ~~193~~ (new): The method according to claim <sup>164</sup>~~175~~, wherein the property identification marker comprises an optically readable marker.

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<sup>183</sup>  
Claim ~~194~~ (new): A property indication apparatus, comprising:

means for indicating a property of a bulk flowable material;

means for causing a bulk flowable material to flow;

<sup>C1</sup>  
<sup>cont</sup>  
means for preparing said means for identifying a property by associating identification data with said means for identifying a property, and

means for periodically dispensing said means for indicating a property into a flowing bulk flowable material;

wherein said means for preparing operates concurrent with said means for causing a bulk flowable material to flow.

<sup>184</sup>  
Claim ~~195~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property identifies a grower of the bulk flowable material.

<sup>185</sup>  
Claim ~~196~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property identifies an owner of the bulk flowable material.

<sup>186</sup>  
Claim ~~197~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property identifies geographic origin of the bulk flowable material.

<sup>187</sup>  
Claim ~~198~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property identifies a genetic property of the bulk flowable material.

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<sup>188</sup>  
Claim ~~198~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property indicates a historical record of the bulk flowable material.

<sup>189</sup>  
Claim ~~200~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein said means for indicating a property identifies a crop variety designation related to the agricultural product.

<sup>190</sup>  
Claim ~~201~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein said means for indicating a property identifies a specific trait associated with the agricultural product.

<sup>191</sup>  
Claim ~~202~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein said means for indicating a property identifies whether the agricultural product is a genetically modified organism.

<sup>192</sup>  
Claim ~~203~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein the bulk flowable material comprises an agricultural product, and wherein said means for indicating a property identifies the agricultural product's genetic content.

<sup>193</sup>  
Claim ~~204~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property identifies a plurality of properties of the bulk flowable material.

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<sup>194</sup>  
Claim ~~203~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property identifies a prior chemical treatment of the bulk flowable material.

<sup>195</sup>  
Claim ~~206~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>194</sup>~~205~~, wherein the prior chemical treatment comprises an insecticide application.

<sup>196</sup>  
Claim ~~207~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>194</sup>~~205~~, wherein the prior chemical treatment comprises a herbicide treatment.

<sup>197</sup>  
Claim ~~208~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property identifies future handling regarding the bulk flowable material.

<sup>198</sup>  
Claim ~~209~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property identifies prior testing of the bulk flowable material.

<sup>199</sup>  
Claim ~~210~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>183</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property comprises an optically readable marker.

<sup>200</sup>  
Claim ~~211~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>199</sup>~~210~~, wherein said optically readable marker comprises a machine-readable marker.

<sup>201</sup>  
Claim ~~212~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>199</sup>~~210~~, wherein said optically readable marker comprises coded information.

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Cl  
cont

<sup>202</sup>  
Claim ~~213~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>199</sup>~~210~~, wherein said optically readable marker comprises human readable information.

<sup>203</sup>  
Claim ~~214~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>193</sup>~~194~~, wherein said means for indicating a property comprises a radiant energy marker.

<sup>204</sup>  
Claim ~~215~~ (new): The property indication apparatus according to claim <sup>203</sup>~~214~~, wherein said radiant energy marker comprises a radio frequency identification tag.

<sup>205</sup>  
Claim ~~216~~ (new): A method for identifying a characteristic of a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:  
causing a bulk flowable material to flow;  
sensing ~~the~~ volume of the flowing bulk flowable material;  
periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the bulk flowable material, wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to achieve a given property identification marker to volume ratio;  
reading a dispensed property identification marker; and  
using data obtained via said reading step to calculate statistical information related to the bulk flowable material.

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206

Claim 206 (new): A method for indicating a characteristic of a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:

- causing a bulk flowable material to flow;
  - sensing the volume of the flowing bulk flowable material;
  - periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the bulk flowable material,
- wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to achieve a given property identification marker to volume ratio;
- reading a dispensed property identification marker; and
  - using data obtained via said reading step to calculate the bulk flowable material's volume.

207

Claim 207 (new): A method for indicating a characteristic of a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:

- causing a bulk flowable material to flow;
  - sensing the mass of the flowing bulk flowable material;
  - periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the bulk flowable material,
- wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to achieve a given property identification marker to mass ratio;
- reading a dispensed property identification marker; and
  - using data obtained via said reading step to calculate statistical information related to the bulk flowable material.

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208

Claim ~~218~~ (new): A method for indicating a characteristic of a bulk flowable material,  
comprising the steps of:

causing a bulk flowable material to flow;

sensing the mass of the flowing bulk flowable material;

periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the bulk flowable material,

wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to  
achieve a given property identification marker to mass ratio;

reading a dispensed property identification marker; and

using data obtained via said reading step to calculate the bulk flowable material's mass.

209

Claim ~~220~~ (new): A method for indicating a characteristic of a bulk flowable material,  
comprising the steps of:

causing a bulk flowable material to flow;

sensing the weight of the flowing bulk flowable material;

periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the bulk flowable material,

wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to  
achieve a given property identification marker to weight ratio;

reading a dispensed property identification marker; and

using data obtained via said reading step to calculate statistical information related to the  
bulk flowable material.

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*210*  
Claim ~~221~~ (new): A method for indicating a characteristic of a bulk flowable material,  
comprising the steps of:

*Cancel*  
causing a bulk flowable material to flow;

sensing the weight of the flowing bulk flowable material;

periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the bulk flowable material,

wherein said periodically dispensing step dispenses a property identification marker so as to

achieve a given property identification marker to weight ratio;

reading a dispensed property identification marker; and

using data obtained via said reading step to calculate the bulk flowable material's weight.